

CLAIMS

I claim:

1.

In combination with a vehicle having an elongated cargo supporting bed having two metal side rails, having upper and lower ends, running longitudinally along outer side areas of the bed and spaced laterally therefrom to define pocket areas therebetween, comprising:

a winch assembly including a substantially vertically disposed stem portion, having upper and lower ends; and a winch ratchet mechanism for winding one end of a tie-down strap therearound;

said stem portion having a hook member movably mounted thereon which is adapted to selectively releasably engage the lower end of one of said side rails, when said stem portion of said winch assembly is inserted downwardly into one of said pocket areas, at one side of the bed, to anchor said winch assembly to one side of the bed;

and an anchor assembly secured to the other side of the bed opposite to said winch assembly for selectively releasably receiving the other end of the tie-down strap;

said anchor assembly including a substantially vertically disposed stem portion;

said stem portion of said anchor assembly having a hook member movably mounted thereon which is adapted to selectively releasably engage the lower end of one of said side walls at the other side of the bed when said stem portion of said

1 anchor assembly is inserted downwardly into one of said pocket areas at the
other side of the bed.

2.

5 The combination of claim 1 wherein said anchor assembly further includes a pair
of upstanding, horizontally spaced-apart plates mounted on the upper end of said stem
portion of said anchor assembly, and a tie-down strap receiver mounted on and
extending between said plates thereof.

3.

10 The combination of claim 2 wherein said tie-down strap receiver on said anchor
assembly is generally J-shaped.

4.

15 The combination of claim 2 wherein said tie-down strap receiver on said anchor
assembly includes a first tie-down portion, having upper and lower ends, secured to
said spaced-apart plates and extending therebetween, and a generally U-shaped tie-
down portion at the lower end of said first tie-down portion.

5.

20 The combination of claim 4 wherein said first tie-down portion is inclined with
respect to said spaced-apart plates so that it extends downwardly and outwardly from
its said upper end.

6.

25 The combination of claim 4 wherein said U-shaped tie-down portion has a notch
formed therein.

7.

1 The combination of claim 5 wherein said U-shaped tie-down portion has a notch formed therein.

8.

5 In combination with a vehicle having an elongated cargo supporting bed having two metal side rails, having upper and lower ends, running longitudinally along outer side areas of the bed and spaced laterally therefrom to define pocket areas therebetween, comprising:

10 a winch assembly including a substantially vertically disposed stem portion, having upper and lower ends; and a winch ratchet mechanism for winding one end of a tie-down chain therearound;

15 said stem portion having a hook member movably mounted thereon which is adapted to selectively releasably engage the lower end of one of said side rails, when said stem portion of said winch assembly is inserted downwardly into one of said pocket areas, at one side of the bed, to anchor said winch assembly to one side of the bed;

20 and an anchor assembly secured to the other side of the bed opposite to said winch assembly for selectively releasably receiving the other end of the tie-down chain;

25 said anchor assembly including a substantially vertically disposed stem portion; said stem portion of said anchor assembly having a hook member movably mounted thereon which is adapted to selectively releasably engage the lower end of one of said side walls at the other side of the bed when said stem portion of said

1 anchor assembly is inserted downwardly into one of said pocket areas at the
other side of the bed.

9.

5 The combination of claim 8 wherein said anchor assembly further includes a pair
of upstanding, horizontally spaced-apart plates mounted on the upper end of said stem
portion of said anchor assembly, and a tie-down chain receiver mounted on and
extending between said plates thereof.

10.

10 The combination of claim 9 wherein said tie-down chain receiver on said anchor
assembly is generally J-shaped.

11.

15 The combination of claim 9 wherein said tie-down chain receiver on said anchor
assembly includes a first tie-down portion, having upper and lower ends, secured to
said spaced-apart plates and extending therebetween, and a generally U-shaped tie-
down portion at the lower end of said first tie-down portion.

12.

20 The combination of claim 11 wherein said first tie-down portion is inclined with
respect to said spaced-apart plates so that it extends downwardly and outwardly from
its said upper end.

13.

25 The combination of claim 11 wherein said U-shaped tie-down portion has a notch
formed therein.

14.

1 The combination of claim 12 wherein said U-shaped tie-down portion has a notch
formed therein.

15.

5 A tie-down anchor for use with a cargo tie-down strap or chain, comprising:
a stem portion, having upper and lower ends, adapted to be secured to the object upon
which the cargo is supported;
a pair of upstanding, horizontally spaced-apart plates mounted on the upper end of said
stem portion;
10 said spaced-apart plates having a tie-down receiver secured thereto and extending
therebetween;
said receiver being generally J-shaped.

16.

15 The anchor of claim 15 wherein said tie-down receiver includes a first tie-down
portion, having upper and lower ends, secured to said spaced-apart plates and
extending therebetween, and a generally U-shaped tie-down portion at the lower end of
said first tie-down portion.

17.

20 The anchor of claim 16 wherein said first tie-down portion is inclined with respect
to said spaced-apart plates so that it extends downwardly and outwardly from its said
upper end.

18.

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The anchor of claim 16 wherein said U-shaped tie-down portion has a slot formed therein.

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